



West Adams Matters

Attorney Promoted Racial Understanding *by Anna Marie Brooks*

West Adams resident Hugh Ellwood Macbeth devoted much of his career to fighting for civil rights long before "civil rights" became a media buzzword. A desire for success for himself and for others was imprinted early in his life.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1884, Macbeth gained his education at the city's prestigious Avery Institute. The school, founded at the close of the Civil War by the Rev. Charles Avery, a Methodist philanthropist from Pittsburgh, offered free secondary education in the classics to the sons and daughters of Charleston's Black elite. Macbeth earned his undergraduate degree from Fisk University in Nashville in 1905. Fisk is one of our nation's first traditionally Black educational institutions.

Macbeth's rich educational background won him the privilege of studying at Harvard Law School. He earned his Harvard LLB in 1908. Macbeth moved to Baltimore to establish his career. He founded the Baltimore Times and served as its first editor. Macbeth was 25 years old at the time.

In 1910 he married Edwina Frances Mayer, daughter of a Columbus, Georgia, doctor. They added two children to their family: Hugh E., Jr. and Emma Houston.

When the Macbeths arrived in Los Angeles in 1914 the attorney was met by a county bar association that denied membership to Negroes. The Los Angeles County Bar Association would continue to withhold membership from African-Americans until 1951. Undaunted by this overt shunning, Macbeth established his law practice in the Wilson Building at 2nd and Spring Street—placing himself in the company of the city's prominent Black attorneys.

In the late 1920s Macbeth was appointed by California Governor Clement C. Young to investigate corruption in the Los Angeles City government. Attorney Macbeth secured indictments against Los Angeles Mayor George E. Cryer and 20 of his associates. Macbeth's win resulted in Mayor Cryer's removal from office in 1929.

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"When the MacBeths arrived in Los Angeles in 1914 the attorney was met by a county bar association that...would continue to withhold membership from African Americans until 1951."



Casa de Rojas - the Sunshine Mission - has just received a rehab grant (see story below)

Drums from the Heart —

WAHA's February Meeting

Please join West Adams Heritage Association for a special Valentine's-themed salute to Black History Month on **Sunday, February 23**, at the home of Victoria Howard, 1728 S. Victoria Avenue in Lafayette Square, at 4 p.m. Learn about a unique piece of music history, compiled by music enthusiast, author and prior Lafayette Square resident (and Victoria's father) Dr. Joseph Howard, and partake of a Valentine's tea hosted by WAHA.

Historic West Adams Shelter Receives Getty Grant *by Jean Frost*

The Casa de Rosas, once known as the Old Time Faith, the oldest continually operating women's shelter in Los Angeles, has been offered a preservation planning grant from the Getty Grant Program to develop plans to conserve and restore its magnificent craftsman ballroom, a key element of the four building site. The Casa de Rosas hopes to return the Ballroom to its original craftsman design and study its feasible uses in the context of its mission statement and the entire four building complex.

The Casa de Rosas, designed in the Spanish Mission revival style, is a Los Angeles Cultural Landmark (No. 241) and has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by architectural historian Leslie Heumann, in her official survey for the CRA Hoover Redevelopment project area in which the Casa de Rosas is located.

The Casa de Rosas has a distinguished architectural and social history. The story of the Casa de Rosas begins in 1892 when noted architect Sumner Hunt designed and built the Froebel Institute - Casa de Rosas "for the superior education

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At Home with History:

Exploring Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zones

All around Los Angeles, unique residential enclaves with historic homes provide a special community ambiance and enhance the quality of life for local residents. Now, across the city, historic neighborhoods are banding together to become Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs) historic districts designated by the City of Los Angeles.

On **Sunday, April 6**, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., five of these diverse historic communities will be showcased on the second annual "At Home with History" self-driving tour organized by the Los Angeles Conservancy, the HPOZ Alliance, and the featured HPOZs. While there, they can tour a representative historic home and meet "neighborhood ambassadors" who will answer questions and provide more information about the HPOZ.

The featured HPOZs and houses are:
 * Carthay Circle, a community of period revival homes developed by J. Harvey McCarthy between 1922 and 1944.

* Harvard Heights, a remarkably consistent West Adams neighborhood predominantly composed of two-story Craftsman homes built from 1902-1908.

* Highland Park, the largest of the city's HPOZs with over 2500 structures including over 50 Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monuments.

* Lafayette Square, an elegant residential park in the West Adams District developed by banker George L. Crenshaw.

* The Mar Vista Tract, Gregory Ain's important modern development that is slated to become the city's 16th HPOZ and its first with postwar homes.

Tickets for the tour are \$30.00 for the general public and \$25.00 for Conservancy members. Order tickets via www.laconservancy.org, or the public can call the Ticket Hotline at 213-430-4219.

The Los Angeles Conservancy, the largest membership-based local historic preservation organization in the country, is dedicated to the recognition, preservation, and revitalization of the architectural and cultural heritage of greater Los Angeles.

The HPOZ Alliance was created three years ago by members of the existing HPOZs who realized the value of speaking with one voice in order to participate more effectively in the legislation and enforcement of the city's HPOZ Ordinance, and to partner with the city in the preservation of our irreplaceable historic districts. ●

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Little League Update: Strong Neighborhood Opposition Voiced at Mt. Vernon Town Hall

by Tom Groener

Bronson Avenue area neighbors, WAHA members and representatives of affected United Neighborhood Councils took advantage of a "town hall" meeting hosted by LAUSD to state publicly their overwhelming opposition to having Little League games played seven days a week/ year-around on the campus of Mt. Vernon Middle School. Although it was clear that Bronson Avenue and West Adams residents support the idea of Little League and the positive influence it can have on youth in the community, the residents said it is inappropriate to locate a little league in the middle of a quiet, single-family-home neighborhood, especially a league that plans to run a year-round, seven-days-a-week operation.

The two proposed Little League baseball fields and one multi-purpose field would replace the existing open-space athletic field at the South Bronson/18th Street corner of the campus.

Along with local residents, several LAUSD officials; representatives of City of Angels Little League (CALL); the Western Regional Director of Little League Baseball, Inc.; a general contractor; a synthetic turf installation expert; the Mt. Vernon principal; and some CALL players and their parents attended the meeting.

Larry Tash, Middle School Director for LAUSD District E (subbing for the District's Supervisor, Dr. Liliam Leis-Castillo), began the meeting by introducing other LAUSD officials, the regional Little League representatives, the contractor and an artificial turf expert.

Tash then introduced Franklin L. Ferguson, Jr. Esq. of CALL who spoke of his "homeless" players who currently have no field to play on. Mr. Ferguson also spoke of the impact of Little League baseball on the lives of its players and how the proposed fields and year-around play schedule at the Mt. Vernon site was the answer to his league's "prayers."

After a brief endorsement of the proposal by the Little League Western Regional Director, the floor was opened by Mr. Tash for comments and statements by members of the community.

More than a dozen Bronson Avenue area homeowners came to the podium to voice their personal opposition to the proposed Little League fields. Homeowners spoke of past problems from soccer playing groups who have played on the school's field. These weekend games have caused excessive noise, traffic, illegal street parking, litter and sanitation problems.

One neighbor, whose home is directly across from the school, told of soccer spectators urinating in his bushes and leaving trash and empty beer bottles.

As opposed neighbors voiced their strong disapproval of the CALL/LAUSD joint-venture, Ferguson and other pro-proposal people (including his wife, Lili, who is president of CALL) bypassed the already-formed line of opposed neighbors to re-state their case for approving the Little League fields.

At one point, Ferguson stated that league play would be from only 4 p.m. to dusk on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to dusk on weekends, all year around.

Ferguson was quickly challenged by a Bronson Avenue resident who stood up and showed him a copy of a written proposal from CALL to LAUSD. In the proposal, playing hours until 10 p.m. were clearly contemplated.

When confronted with his own written proposal which clearly states the intention to play games each weekday and weekend until "10pm", Ferguson actually *denied* any knowledge of the proposal, claiming not to be its author. However, the proposal, which was dated 9/3/02 and listed Ferguson and other CALL board members on its title page, had been emailed by Ferguson himself to Alex Frost of the Bronson Avenue Area Neighborhood Association (BAANA).

After this exchange, the remaining neighbors in line were then able to voice their strong opposition. Each speaker expressed deep concern for diminished quality of life, excessive traffic and noise and excessive street parking. (The Mt. Vernon lot can hold only 75 cars and the written proposal states that as many as 150 cars would need to be parked.) One speaker explained to

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"One neighbor, whose home is directly across from the school, told of soccer spectators urinating in his bushes and leaving trash and empty beer bottles."

MEETING NOTICE

The quarterly meeting of WAHA's Historic Preservation Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. at the 2330 West 31st Street. Contact Jean Frost, Eric Bronson or Colleen Davis for more information

Around the House

Resources *Dorrie Popovich*

It's February, and while most of the rest of the nation is trying to stay warm, here in sunny West Adams, our thoughts are turning to home improvements. Whether it's pruning our trees and readying our gardens for spring or repairing and remodeling inside the house, I've gotten some great recommendations from our newsletter readers.

Pam and Jim Palmer are a wealth of information. They had an excellent experience with electrician W. T. Thompson, of W. T. Electric. On very short notice, he showed up on time (bright and early on the morning after a panicky call), tracked down the problem and fixed it. He does a lot of work in our area, so he is well-versed in houses with knob and tube challenges.

They also recommended Don Kim of DECO Welding and Sheet Metal Works. He recently custom fabricated the steel fence in their front yard. They said he gave them a competitive bid and did a fine job.

I have been asked to recommend contractors and I have two for you. For smaller projects, like fences, porches, patios, etc., I suggest you call Rene Mejia (licensed, general contractor). For larger construction projects call Jerry Mendelsohn, (licensed contractor). Jerry completely restored the house across the street from us, from drug house to former Craftsman glory. He also lovingly restored our house when he bought and lived in it in the early eighties.

And, while we're still in the house, I would like to personally recommend an antique clock repair service...California Clockmaker's Guild. We have used them many times and they are fantastic! They are experienced in all kinds of antique clocks. I'll never forget the time I walked into their shop and saw them

working on a seven-foot stone clock with solid stone pendulums built in the 1500's! And they are quick, reasonable and efficient, unlike Jacobson's, who took six months to repair our grandfather clock.

Diane Weihs speaks exuberantly about a finish carpenter. His name is Mory Bar Zion and he's exceptional in all things wood, doors and floors — even tile.

I've been asked about tree trimming services and I can personally recommend Harnisch Corp. They were recommended by a landscaper and did a wonderful job of taming our 60-year-old avocado tree. Veralyn Jones heartily recommends arborist Jerome Smith. He was very helpful in showing her the proper

watering techniques and feeding for baby trees.

Also from Diane Weihs, a warning about painter Gary Hall. He was hired to prep and paint the exterior of their house. His bid was high, but he promised her the world and she agreed. She found he passed over a lot of the prep work to get the job finished. It was never completed to her satisfaction and extra monies were attached to his original bid. She recently found a bubble in the paint and called him to make good on his promise to correct all errors. He never responded.

And finally, a question. Michael Urhlenkott would like to find someone who can estimate the feasibility of rebuilding a Claycroft fireplace. Does anyone have any sources?

Don't forget to e-mail me at Popovich22@AOL.com with all your recommendations and commendations.

And when you call these people, mention that you read about them in the WAHA Newsletter. You might get a discount!

Electrician

W. T. Electric (W. T. Thompson, licensed and bonded)
310/538-0082 or 818/918-8744

Steel Fencing

DECO Welding and Sheet Metal Works (Don Kim)
7512 S. Maie Ave. LA 90001
323/584-8882

Licensed Contractors

Rene Mejia 323/665-3138 Pager: 213/496-5167

Jerry Mendelsohn

4311 Victoria Park Dr. Los Angeles 90019
323/935-6335

Clock Repair

California Clockmakers' Guild (Richard Siler)
7971 Melrose Ave. (1 1/2 blocks W. of Fairfax) LA 90046
323/653-1081

Carpenter

Morty Bar Zion Pager: 323/655-1558

Tree Service

Harnisch Corp. (Ask for Diana)

818/888-9611

Jerome Smith, Arborist 310/305-8448

Bolts and Nutz

Linda Joshua

Hello and welcome to "Bolts and Nutz" – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation, beautification and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. If you have a question, or you have an area of expertise and would be interested in sharing your knowledge by answering the questions, please contact me at Linda_Joshua@hotmail.com

Q I have some loose tiles on the shower floor that I can feel moving around when I step on them. They are intact. Is it possible to reglue them?
Jackie

A You sure can! Pick up the tiles (if they are loose enough to do so). Scrape off any grout from their edges and backs, and on the floor where the tiles were. Reglue the tiles with a phenolic vinyl adhesive caulk or thin-set mortar, which works equally well. RegROUT the joints and you are good to go.

Q I have some windows that I would really love to permanently frost. I've been using frosting paint, but would like something more permanent. Gary, Los Angeles

A That's one way to do it. There are some other things you can do. You can apply frosted Contact paper (which is easy to remove if necessary). I have also heard of people using hand-held sandblasting blower on the glass, but I haven't seen the results of this technique up close and personal, so I would research this a little more if this is an idea you are interested in.

Q I have quite a few holes I need to drill into a concrete slab. I'm using a masonry bit, and was wondering what speed I should you use on the drill? Martha, 4th Avenue

A I would actually recommend that you rent an impact drill. An impact drill not only spins, but also punches, like a jackhammer, but with a lot less violence. You will get a clean hole in seconds instead of minutes or hours that a regular drill will take, and that's precious time saved for the home improvement types!

If you still want to do it yourself, slow or medium speed is best so you don't burn the drill bit and dull it. ●

USC Demolitions Update *by Jean Frost*

WAHA Newsletter readers by now are well aware of USC's illegal demolition of the historic Van Cott House at 921 West 30th Street last August and of their proposed demolition of the historic American-Foursquare residence of 3014 Royal Street. The University's representative, Al Ono, reporting at CRA's Hoover Project Area Committee on January 16, reassured the Hoover PAC and the community that USC was unequivocally committed to a restitution plan which would replace the demolished 30th Street historic house with a move-on of another historic home with "equal or greater historic significance."

This plan can help to abate the damage and controversy caused by the University's unfortunate demolition. By agreeing to a historic home replacement move-on, the University will re-establish their credibility as both good neighbors and historic preservation supporters. This remedial measure was recommended by WAHA by Board action and by WAHA, as well as area preservation organizations NUPCA and ADHOC, at CRA's Environmental Task-Force meeting with USC. The historic replacement move-on concept has precedence in the University Park neighborhood when the Forthmann House (LA-HCM #103) was relocated to 28th and Hoover in 1991 by USC to replace their deteriorated historic Bassett House.

CRA Hoover Project Staff-Planner, Sanders Ishisaka, also reported that when USC finally selects the historic replacement structure they will be required to do a Mitigated Negative Declaration that will encompass both the illegal demolition and the move-off / move-on project. When asked about penalties for the contractor (Castle Rock Environmental) who completed the demolition while ignoring a City Building & Safety Departmental "Stop-Work-Order", Mr. Ono stated that USC itself had assumed all responsibility for the action. He added that after a hearing before the L.A. City Attorney's Office there was an understanding that there would be no prosecution of the University at this time but any future breach could result in significant penalties.

CRA Staff reported that on the Royal Street proposal they were still in the process of making the required responses to public-comments made on the project's Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND.) They therefore will not make a final decision to either certify the MND or rescind the document until the responses have been completed. They indicated that the review work would take an additional two-to-three weeks. More later. ●

Preservation Forum

Date: Saturday, March 22

Time: 7:00pm

Place: 2657 Van Buren Pl, near Normandie and Adams. Enter on 27th St, since Van Buren is blocked off at Adams.

Potluck dinner: bring a favorite dish to share

WAHA has invited a number of historic preservation organizations in the area to send a representative to our Forum. We'll share ideas, experiences, successes, and challenges with each other. Here's our opportunity to learn what's happening with like-minded groups from all over our region.

Community Matters

Around the Blocks

The **Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association** had its inception meeting at the end of 2002. We are looking for those who live within our boundaries to join the organization. The boundaries are as follows. Pico to the north, The Santa Monica Freeway (10) to the south, Arlington Ave to the East and Crenshaw to the west. The Association includes Central Arlington Heights, Arlington Heights Extension and West Arlington Heights.

Some of the issues discussed included: graffiti, police involvement, a commercial shopping village, historic preservation, beautification, landscaping, schools, safety, neighborhood signs, historic designation, a farmers' market, neighborhood improvements and many other topics.

For more information about our next meeting, please call either Alex and Linda Frost at 323-735-9639 or Steve Rowe at 323-733-9600 or E-Mail alex@sunflowerproduction.com or Rowesb@aol.com.

Neighborhoods Congress

It's time for the Congress of Neighborhoods "TeamWork LA" 2003!

When: Saturday, April 5

Where: Los Angeles Convention Center

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am Registration, 10:00 am-5:00 pm Workshops

Contact us toll-free at 1 866 LA HELPS.

Neighborhoods Grants

The Board of Public Works, Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) has began a new cycle of funding for the Neighborhood Matching Fund program. Neighborhood-based organizations can apply for funds between \$250 and \$5000. Most capital-improvement projects funded by the NMF grants are related to Mural/Arts, Gardening/Landscaping, Streetscape and Hardscape projects. This program is competitive and for every dollar requested through the NMF, the community group must provide a comparable match. OCS will be holding workshops and informational meetings for interested applicants. The submission deadline is April 17. For information call 800-611-2489 or go to www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/nmf

10th District Candidates' Forum

Come learn the views of the candidates for the Los Angeles 10th District City Council office.

When: Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Crystal Room at West Angeles Church of God In Christ
3045 Crenshaw Blvd

Moderator: Mr. Larry McCormick, KTLA Channel 5 News

Candidates scheduled to participate include: Attorney John Caldwell, Mr. Martin Ludlow, Rev. Madison Shockley, Attorney Leo Terrell, Mr. Deron Williams, and Assemblyman Rod Wright

The event is hosted by the Citizens for 10th District: Korean American Alliance, Korean American Grocer's Association, LaFayette Square Assn., Victoria Park Neighborhood Assn., Mid-City Neighborhood Council, West Adams Neighborhood Council, Olympic Neighborhood Assn., Wellington Square Improvement Assn., West Adams Heritage Association, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, and many more.

Contact number: 323-732-5376 or 323-571-2013. Email Address: citizensforthe10th@yahoo.com

Natalie Neith Ken Catbagan The Catbagan-Neith Team

Prudential John Aaroe President's Circle

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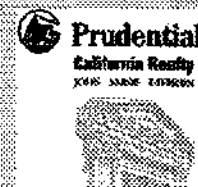
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WAHA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STANDING MEETINGS

All WAHA members are encouraged to join a committee.
(All committee meetings begin at 7 pm on the days noted below.)

Community Relations

Contact Jennifer Charnofsky if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323-734-7391

Historic Preservation

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323-737-1163, Jean Frost 323-748-1656, Colleen Davis 323-733-0446

Zoning & Planning

Chair: Jim Dugan 323-732-7233. Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty 2316 1/2 South Union

Newsletter

Publications Director: Anna Marie Brooks 323-735-3960. Newsletter Committee Chair: Laura Meyers 323-737-6146. Meets second Monday of each month

Holiday Tour

Chair: Jacqueline Sharps 323-766-8842

Membership

Chair: John Kurtz 323-732-2990. Meets third Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting

Fundraising

Catherine Barrier 323-732-7233

Web Site

Clayton de Leon 323-734-0660

By-Laws

Tom Florio 213-749-8464

Programs and Events

SeElcy Caldwell 323-291-7484 and Clayton de Leon 323-734-0660

The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

Stepping Out

Meet Author Penny Mickelbury



Reading from her latest mystery

Paradise Interrupted

Thursday, February 13

6:30 - 8:00

Washington Irving Library

Mickelbury, a former newspaper, radio, and television reporter, is an accomplished playwright and novelist. Her work was chosen by the California African American Museum to be presented as part of its Radio Theater Program. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, she now lives in Los Angeles.

In *Paradise Interrupted*, Carole Ann Gibson, co-partner in an investigative and security consulting business, travels to a tiny Caribbean island where she becomes embroiled in a world of blackmail, political sacrifice, family secrets, and betrayal.

The Washington Irving Library is located at 4117 West Washington Blvd., one block east of Crenshaw.

Opera in the Neighborhood

Get ready for Tuesday evenings with the Los Angeles Opera. Speakers from the Opera will present a series of talks about the magical world of the opera at West Adams' own Washington Irving Library, 4117 West Washington Blvd. (323-734-6303). The series will culminate in a Friday evening concert performed by Los Angeles Opera artists.

February 18 – African Americans in Opera

March 18 – The Flying Dutchman

April 15 – Behind the Scenes

May 20 – Don Giovanni

June 20 (FRIDAY!) – Community Concert

All programs begin at 6:30 p.m.

Pasadena Historic Homes Tour

Pasadena Heritage, one of the oldest non-profit historic preservation organizations in Southern California, will host its annual Spring Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, March 30, 2003.

Masterpieces of the Mediterranean Style will feature five exceptional homes and gardens from the height of the revival era. Docents will provide guided tours of these architecturally significant homes designed by some of Southern California's most prominent architects.

Advanced ticket prices are \$30 for general public and \$25 for members. For tickets and more information call Pasadena Heritage at (626) 441-6333 or visit www.pasadenaheritage.org.

The Edible Garden: Nasturtiums *by Anna Marie Brooks*

Nasturtiums – too common? Refocus that thought. Envision a salad with a bright scattering of nasturtium blooms and a snappy peppery taste lent by nasturtium leaves. Forgot to buy capers? Substitute pickled nasturtium seedpods. At the next party smugly pass the hors d'oeuvres on a bed of graceful round nasturtium leaves gorgeously accented with *Tropaeolum majus* blossoms. Gardeners and their envious guests will see new virtues in the easy to grow nasturtium.

Freshen a garden's visual appeal by introducing "Alaskan" nasturtiums. Their green/white variegated leaves lend freshness to borders, patio pots and window boxes and add refined panache to their warm blooms.

Yellows, oranges and reds enhance most nasturtium visions and add either Victorian or Craftsman accents to your garden. With a bit of diligence the gardener can add varieties which will unfurl pink or blue blossoms along with stares of befuddlement from purists. *Tropaeolum minus* appears as 6" dwarf plants with double and/or ruffled petal blooms.

Gardeners with expansive desires may choose climbing varieties which will enjoy covering wire mesh during their exploratory maneuvers. This is wonderfully bright, fast growing, verdant cover for a shallow wall. Conversely these varieties may be planted in hanging pots for a cascade of leaves and blooms. Appreciative butterflies will flock to this display.

Nasturtiums thrive in sun drenched, alkaline, nutrient deficient soil. This unenhanced footing will promote somewhat sparse leaf growth bursting with an abundance of fragrant, trumpet form five petaled blooms. Enhancing the soil produces dense foliage at the expense of bloom production.

Nasturtiums are easily propagated in the garden. Plant one or two seeds together, pushing them into the soil to a depth of about one inch. Space dwarf varieties a scant foot between anticipated plants. Space larger, taller varieties two feet or more apart.

In our warm climate nasturtiums which are not religiously deadheaded will often produce new plants from the seeds which burst from ripened seedpods and take root next to their parents. A bed which is not thoroughly cultivated between growing seasons may become home to a self-propagating band of cheerful nasturtiums.

Nasturtiums love sun but not unduly high temperatures. While they will bloom all summer they will be most inspired and prolific during less hot, but still sunny days of late summer and early autumn. If you plant them during the height of Los Angeles heat they would prefer a spot with light shade.

The gardener/hostess can enjoy an easily gained largess of nasturtiums by serving open-faced cream cheese tea sandwiches festooned with nasturtium blooms. Those legendary cucumber sandwiches will take on new appeal when a nasturtium leaf nestles under each cucumber slice. Pour the tea and enjoy the accolades delivered courtesy of the far from common nasturtium.

If you've run out of interesting ways to dress pasta simply head for your Nasturtium patch and prepare this easy dish.

Garden Squash and Nasturtium Butter Pasta

- 20 nasturtium blossoms
- 2 shallots, diced
- 1 teaspoon fresh savory, chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped
- 4 Tablespoons sweet butter
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4 baby yellow squash with flowers attached
- 4 baby Zucchini with flowers attached
- one half cup chicken stock
- 2 servings of tagliatelle
- additional nasturtiums blossoms for garnish (leave whole)



Chop nasturtium blossoms. Blend flowers, shallots, and herbs together with butter and season with salt and pepper. Slice squash into thin rounds and squash blossoms into ribbons. Keep each separate. Gently sauté squash alone in half the nasturtium butter for 2 to 3 minutes. Add chicken stock and squash blossoms and simmer while you cook the pasta. Drain pasta and add it with remaining nasturtium butter to squash; season and mix well. Serve garnished with additional nasturtium blossoms. Variation: Fresh peas may be substituted for squashes. Yield: 2 Servings

Note: Those not growing summer squash (shame!) may find baby squash with attached blossoms at Pavilions. ●

February, 2003

Dear WAHA Members and Friends of Historic Preservation:

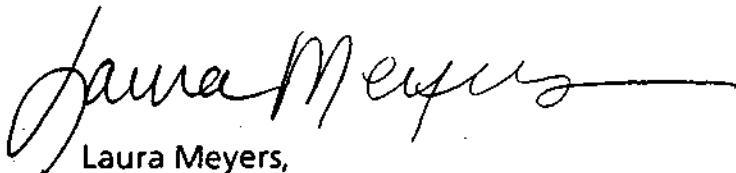
With this, the 200th issue of the West Adams Heritage Association newsletter, we have a new look, a new logo, and a new name, ***West Adams Matters***.

West Adams does matter. We will continue to do what we've been doing in the newsletter for nearly 20 years, covering preservation issues, neighborhood news, events, people, history, and WAHA itself. And we will also continue to help you out on practical matters like gardening, home restoration and resources that help us all beautify the Historic West Adams District.

We have tried to clean up the look of the newsletter, and as time goes on we will be adding more photographs and graphic images. We have also organized your favorite columns and features into regular departments like "Around the House" (for restoration resources and how-to stories) and "Stepping Out" (fun things to do).

Many, many thanks and kudos to our team of artists and designers, Christa Schmidt, Frank Cooper, Jennifer Cunningham, Alina Hagan, who illustrated our new logo, and especially Hilary Lentini, who designed and laid out the new newsletter and the logo. WAHA Publications Director Anna Marie Brooks pulled this creative and wonderful team together - thank you, Anna Marie, as well.

And we thank each and every one of you for continuing to support West Adams Heritage Association and its activities.



Laura Meyers,
Editor

The Garden Guy

by Steve Rowe

Greetings Gardeners! Wow — as I am writing this column, in January, the sun is shining, and it is 85 degrees, and it's Winter. For gardeners it does not get much better than this.

What should we do now in the garden in winter, to prepare for Spring? This is a good time to create a new flower bed and fortify it with all the right nutrients. Look at your yard and find a place that you think will make a pretty addition to your landscape plan. Why not a circular garden surrounding a tree? Or perhaps a garden on each side of your front walk. Or even a wider planting bed where a small one exists (go ahead, remove a little lawn).

Use your imagination. I find it helps to take a drive and get garden ideas from others. If your yard and house have similar dimensions and you like what you see in another yard, by all means take the idea and make it your own. Keep a camera with you in the car, and take pictures of the gardens you like. In this case, imitation really is the sincerest form of flattery.

Back at home, it's time to dig that new bed. Will it be a formal, straight-line bed? Or a curved, naturalistic edge? Either way, lay out the edge first. Many gardeners use an old length of hose to form the temporary line, and spade right next to it. Then you are grab the wheelbarrow—you are going to need to remove some dirt. Depending on the quality of your garden's soil, you can prepare this planting bed to a depth of eight inches - or eighteen (mind you, the latter would be back-breaking work). In either case, you'll want to work in an almost equal amount of organic compost and amendments to your original soil. Break up all the clumps, mix the ingredients well, and spread the new soil mixture evenly throughout your planting bed.

Edge the bed in a way that's appropriate for your garden style. Some common edging materials are river rock or bricks. Just make sure it's a distinct edge: you want to be sure the lawnmower can mow the grass without mowing over whatever you plant in the bed.

Depending on the weather, you can plant this month or wait until spring to fill your new pretty spot in the garden.

Let's make the Historic West Adams District the greenest place to live in Los Angeles, and the most beautiful. All we have to do is get up get out into the garden. Think Green, Green and More Green. ●

2003 Blooming of the Roses Festival

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership Business Improvement District (the Partnership) joins with the Exposition Park stakeholders, the West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) and the Garden Conservancy to sponsor the *Blooming of the Roses Festival* to be held Thursday, April 24 to Sunday, April 27. The *Blooming of the Roses Festival* is a celebration of the spring rose blooms at the historic Exposition Park Rose Garden and of the cultural resources and significant, historical treasures in the Exposition Park/Figueroa Corridor area.

The Festival showcases the Rose Garden's "flowering jewels," along with floral and nature themed program offerings. This year programming for adults will include private (residential) garden tours, rose care demonstrations and a talk on rose garden design from Charles Follette of The Rose Garden Nursery in Santa Monica, and a slide presentation talk on the history of flower and agriculture festivals in Los Angeles by historian Victoria Dailey. For families, the 2003 Festival activities will include crafts, flower dissections, a children's rose themed art contest and more.

A very special addition to this year's *Blooming of the Roses Festival* programming will be private garden tours in the historic West Adams neighborhood. The garden tours are being coordinated by WAHA and the 2003 Greater Los Angeles Open Days program sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. The Garden Conservancy is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of gardens. The Open Days program invites the public to visit America's very best private gardens.

Located in the southern part of the historic, central core of the City of Los Angeles, Exposition Park is home to a variety of great museums, attractions and recreational facilities, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Swim Stadium which hosted the Olympics in 1932 and 1984, the Rose Garden, the California Science Center, the California African American Museum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) and the Los Angeles Sports Arena. It's also a neighbor to the University of Southern California and the community gathering place Mercado La Paloma.

The Exposition Park Rose Garden was created during 1926 to 1928. Under the direction of rosarians George C. Robinson and Fred H. Howard, a consultant for the American Rose Society, the city's then Parks Department embarked on a project to create the "largest and most magnificent public rose garden in the United States." Designated as a Los Angeles County Point of Historical Interest in 1987, this seven acre garden today contains around 10,000 rose bushes, of more than 100 different varieties.

The Rose Garden has always been very popular for picnics, weddings and in more recent history—film shoots. Considered to be the first municipally operated public rose garden in the country, it is still one of the largest and most beautiful in the USA. A lovely place to experience nature and a respite from urban activity, the garden showcases roses which can be grown at home and ones to be admired for their aesthetics that could be included in flower show/exhibition competitions.

Exposition Park Rose Garden is one of the public gardens throughout the United States that All American Rose Selections, Inc. donates its new,

(continued on page 11)

In the Garden

Open Days: Private West Adams Gardens on Display

Six outstanding private gardens in West Adams will open to the public during the community's first annual Garden Open Days event on **Sunday, April 27** from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. to raise funds for the West Adams Heritage Association and the Garden Conservancy. Admission is \$5 per person and children under 12 are admitted for free.

Jennifer Charnofsky's Garden at the Furlong House, 2657 Van Buren Place, West Adams, is an organic garden that uses drought tolerant Mediterranean and California native plants suited to the Los Angeles climate. The rear vegetable garden, interspersed with flowers, uses the French intensive method (raised beds, double digging, close planting). The house is a gateway to a National Register District street, one of several districts in historic West Adams.

The *West Adams Marais Garden*, 2534 Ninth Avenue, is wild looking, with the multiplicity of textures that comes when trees, flowers, succulents, spiky plants, tall and wispy grasses and ground covers are jumbled together. *The Trósperraposa Garden*, 2515 Fourth Avenue, West Adams, is an Arts & Crafts

garden updated: A symphony of foliage textures forms the framework for the red-and-white perennial arc. Behind the 1909 Craftsman are a koi pond, hybrid roses, and a pergola covered with the original wisteria.

The Hutchinson Family Garden, 2176 West 24th Street, West Adams, was designed to be an extension of the owners' 1910 Craftsman house, both in design and plant choice. The series of garden rooms include: an open-air dining room with a citrus

perimeter and a secret garden with trellised walls and perennial borders. *Le Parc Sans Soleil*, 2455 Gramercy Park Place, West Adams, is the former home of Los Angeles' park director in the 1920's. The oasis features a collection of rare ferns complemented by many California specimen plants.

Fountains and marble lions stand guard at the *Peace Awareness Labyrinth & Gardens at the Guasti Villa*, 3500 West Adams Boulevard, West Adams. Visitors will walk through the entry court, grand ballroom, and out to the rotunda, where the two-level flagstone courtyard comes into view with reflecting pools, fountains, flowering plants, a rose-covered pergola, and a hand-cut stone labyrinth fashioned after the Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth.

The West Adams gardens will open under the auspices of the Open Days Program of the Garden Conservancy, the only national garden visiting program of its kind which has welcomed visitors to peek behind the gates of America's most captivating private gardens for the past eight years. In 2003, 378 gardens in 22 states will open on select weekends from March through October. All are listed in the Open Days Directory, a guide that includes maps, driving directions, photographs and detailed descriptions written by each owner. The 2003 edition costs \$15.95 (\$10.95) for Garden Conservancy members, plus \$4.50 for shipping. Discount coupons are available as well through advance mail order only. In 2003, the first regional edition of the Open Days Directory – The West Coast edition – will make its debut and will list over 100 private gardens in California Oregon and Washington. The cost for this edition is only \$5.00 (plus \$1.50 for shipping) and comes with one free garden admission offer. The West Coast gardens are listed in the national edition as well. Call the Garden Conservancy toll free at 1-888-842-2442; or order with a Visa or MasterCard, or send a check or money order to: The Garden Conservancy, PO. Box 219, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516

The Garden Conservancy is the only national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of gardens. By inviting the public to visit private gardens through its Open Days Program, the Conservancy strives to strengthen the public's commitment to garden preservation and encourage the appreciation of gardens as living works of art. You can visit them online at www.gardenconservancy.org ●

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Saturday: 7:30 am-2 pm
Sunday: 10 am-12 Noon

Blooming of the Roses Festival

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award winning rose cultivars to each year so garden enthusiasts can view them and decide whether or not to grow them in their own gardens.

This will be the fourth year the Figueroa Corridor Partnership and area stakeholders have sponsored the Rose Garden spring blooms celebration, and each year the festivities gets bigger and better. "In the Exposition Park/Figueroa Corridor, support of programs that encourage people to visit area establishments and promote cultural tourism are natural ways to boost development efforts in this section of the city," said Darryl Holter, Chairman of the Partnership and Chief Administrative Officer of The Shammus Group. Support of the *Blooming of the Roses* celebration has become one of the Partnership's ongoing efforts to promote positive awareness of the area, and to enhance community and economic development.

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership is responsible for the daily management and promotion of the Figueroa/Flower/Vermont Corridor, linking downtown Los Angeles to Exposition Park. The Partnership is committed to the development of a safe, clean, economically vibrant and aesthetically pleasing environment in which to conduct business, continue an education, visit a museum, attend a sporting event, worship or reside.

For more information or updates on the *2003 Blooming of the Roses Festival* programming, contact Figueroa Corridor Partnership Marketing Consultant Alison R. Jefferson at 323.931.6745 or jalisonj@aol.com or visit www.figueroacorridor.org.

2003 Blooming of the Roses Festival Sponsors

Figueroa Corridor Partnership Business Improvement District:

www.figueroacorridor.org

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles:

www.laparks.org

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County:

www.nhm.org/calendar/home.html

California African American Museum: www.caam.org

California Science Center: www.casciencectr.org

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission: www.lacoliseum.com

West Adams Heritage Association:

www.neighborhoodlink.com/wa/westadams

or

www.westadamsheritage.com

The Garden Conservancy: www.gardenconservancy.org ●

WAHA Board Elections Are Coming

West Adams Heritage Association needs you! Annual Board elections are slated for April, and we'd like each of you to please consider running for a position on the WAHA Board of Directors. Requirements: a love of old houses, an enthusiasm for community activities, and membership in WAHA for at least six months. Generally speaking, Board members must commit to attend all WAHA Board meetings (usually held the fourth Thursday of each month) and also will be given specific responsibilities for certain of WAHA's events and social functions, on a rotating basis.

In addition, most Board members hold office or committee chairmanships. WAHA always needs expertise in fundraising, zoning issues, and preservation. But if you have a program you'd like to initiate, please don't hesitate discuss your ideas with President Jacqueline Sharps, and of course don't hesitate to join the board. Along with Jackie, any of the current members (listed on page 2 of this Newsletter) would be happy to talk to you about Board activities.

If you are interested, submit your candidate statement (a short paragraph, 100 - 200 words or so) to Publications Committee Chair, Anna Marie Brooks, by Sunday, March 2. Candidate Statements received by then will be published in the April Newsletter.

The Board members are the heart and soul of this organization. Without a full and competent Board of Directors, WAHA cannot function effectively. ●

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Tribute to Hugh MacBeth

continued from page 1

While Macbeth was able to join the Los Angeles (city) Bar Association he found that organization inadequate for his needs. Longing for something more, Macbeth became instrumental in the formation of the Lawyers Club of Los Angeles. Founded in 1931, the Lawyers' Club (now the Lawyers' Club of Los Angeles County) was the first volunteer bar association open in all respects to small firm practitioners, women and minorities. Macbeth served on its first Board of Governors. The mere existence of the Lawyers' Club and its strong example eventually encouraged other attorneys' groups to open their membership to all.

“It was Hugh MacBeth who took the voters' case for re-enfranchisement to the state supreme court. His success allowed thousands...to vote in this legendary election.”

The Lawyers' Club set the pace for Los Angeles lawyers' associations in the early 1930's. It utilized public investigations, amicus briefs and lawsuits to address court congestion, the lobbying activity of public utilities, inflated telephone rates, and the unlawful practice of law by The Auto Club of

Southern California and an assortment of unions. It conducted public debates on repeal of Prohibition (the 18th Amendment) – then a major source of political corruption in Los Angeles.

The Lawyers' Club supported Macbeth's Initiative Measure to Abolish Trust Deeds and their foreclosure abuses. As one might imagine such abuses ran rampant during the Depression.

The loss of home and one's address lead many to be disenfranchised in the nasty 1934 California gubernatorial election. The race pitted author Upton Sinclair (D) against Republican incumbent Frank Merriman.

The overt use of dirty tactics in the 1934 race makes today's contests look benign. The motion picture studios, which stood to be heavily taxed should Sinclair win, blatantly staged newsreels saturated with scenes that visually confirmed Merriman's scare claims. These they distributed for free to all movie houses in their desperation to garner votes for Merriman. (Ironically, it was Merriman who ultimately introduced the state income tax to California.)

Thousands of residents who had lost homes or apartments, and many who had not, were purged from the 1934 voter rolls. It was attorney Hugh Macbeth who took the voters' case for re-enfranchisement to the state supreme court. His success allowed thousands who had been stricken from the voter roles to vote in this legendary election. While Sinclair ultimately lost the race due to a myriad of other unsavory practices, Macbeth's courtroom victory returned the vote to thousands who would have been turned away from the polls in this and subsequent elections.

In the 1930s attorney Macbeth entered diplomatic service with his appointment as Consul of the Republic of Liberia in Los Angeles.

Always striving to promote racial understanding the attorney took part in a unique presentation of the Town Hall Forum in 1938. Macbeth shared his thoughts on the topic: "If I Were a White Man," while his counterpart, McCallan Reed, noted orator, traveler and writer, shared his reflections on: "If I Were a Negro."

Utopianism was of great interest to Macbeth. He served as general counsel to the Utopian Society of America, a Depression era group that included hundreds of thousands of Whites, Blacks, Hispanics and the deaf among its membership. He was also a founding member of the Lower California Mexican Land & Development Co., an agrarian African-American utopian community.

Macbeth was involved with many organizations that sought to forge bonds of understanding among diverse ethnic groups. He was among the founders and leadership of the California Race Relations Committee, the Friends of Truth & Justice, the International Inter-racial Institute, and the Humanist Society of Friends—an off-shoot Quaker group founded here in 1939 and nationally viable today.

Continually active as a legislative reformer, Macbeth authored the California Race Relations Resolution of 1937.

Macbeth was also heavily involved in relations with the liberal leadership of Mexico. He lent his name and legal talents to the Los Angeles Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born which concerned itself with the impact of the post World War II McCarran Act and McCarran-Walter Act on Mexican American workers during the height of McCarthyism. The Federal government took advantage of the Communist scare to deport Mexican Americans who had lived and worked in Southern California for decades. Doing so insured agribusiness and industry an abundance of unorganized, inexpensive and easily exploited labor.

Attorney Hugh Macbeth, who dedicated his life, legal talents and humanitarianism to persons regardless of ethnicity or beliefs, died in 1956. Macbeth and his family are interred at Angelus/Rosedale Cemetery. ●

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Mt. Vernon Little League

continued from page 3

the audience what the requirements are for an environmental clearance on this (or any) project, and voiced the opinion that this project did have environmental impacts (again, noise, traffic, parking) under California law.

Neighbors also voiced concern that, despite the proposal's stated benefit of "increased property values for adjacent residents", their own property values would, in fact, decrease based on estimates by local area real estate professionals and experiences of homeowners in other areas.

The meeting ended with a promise from LAUSD that no decision — for or against the proposed baseball fields at Mt. Vernon — would be made with out further inclusion of the affected homeowners.

Sensing that the Fergusons and CALL will continue to push Mt. Vernon as their "best and final" location for their Little League fields, BAANA members are currently pursuing a number of options to fight the proposed fields, including: Applying for permit-only parking on streets surrounding Mt. Vernon; collecting names and signatures of opposed BAANA homeowners (the number now exceeds 45 people) for a letter/petition to be sent to LAUSD board members, the Los Angeles City Council and others; and, using representatives from LAUSD board president Genethia Hayes' office to set up a meeting between CALL and the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council and all the neighborhood councils within the league's boundaries (Melrose to the I-10 Freeway, La Brea to Vermont) to find an acceptable alternate site for the Little League baseball fields.

Alex Frost and Tom Groener, members of both BAANA and WAHA, are spearheading the opposition. If you would like further information, please call Alex (323-735-7272) or Tom (323-732-7907). ●

Getty Grant

continued from page 1

of the young of Southern California." The Froebel Institute was patterned after the principals of educator Frederich Froebel, who believed in an active approach to learning — a belief later to be known as the "kindergarten" movement. The principles were adopted by feminists and women reformers of the 1900's, including Caroline Severance, who's home was located just a few blocks away. Around 1908, the Froebel Institute became the Girls' Collegiate School, and two dormitory buildings were added. In the 1930's the facility became a hotel and restaurant and, during World War II, was used as an army barracks and showplace for USO entertainment.

In 1951 Sister Essie Binkley West, a radio evangelist and contemporary of Aimee Semple McPherson, moved her Old Time Faith, Inc., from its Wall Street facilities which the city had condemned, to the Casa de Rosas, purchasing the site for \$4,000.

By the mid 80's, the physical plant had deteriorated and the Casa de Rosas was subject to several fires. Los Angeles was about to lose a historic landmark to yet another vacant parcel, at a critical corner, the juncture of Adams and Hoover. A \$2 million dollar residential reconstruction project, funded by the City of Los Angeles and the State of California, adaptively restored a portion of the site for low income and emergency shelter housing. The funding however did not provide for restoration of some of the grand multi-purpose common areas such as the Ballroom. The Casa de Rosas grant includes the participation of Tom Michali of M2A architects, who has been involved in the restoration and rehabilitation process for over a decade. ●

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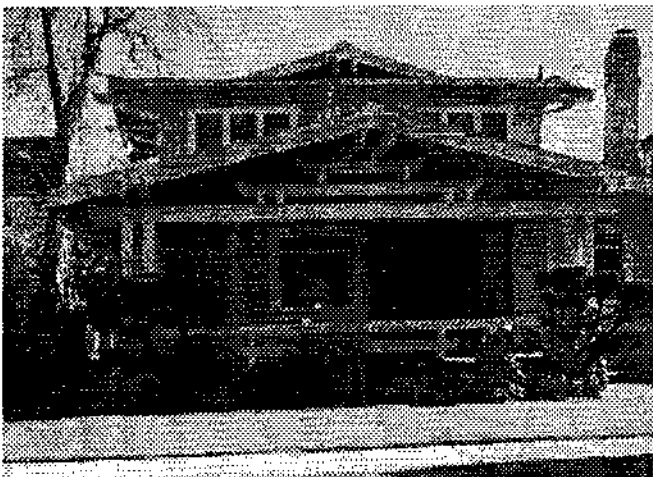
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A CALL TO MEMBERS

If you frequent a local business — retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. — ask them if they would like to offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they would benefit from the increased exposure to many local consumers, and would be listed monthly in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them.
— Steve Wallis

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To place a display ad, call Lisa Schoening 323-666-8617. WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. If you can, please e-mail your classified ad to wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com. Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Lisa Schoening by deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, the charge is \$.25 per word.

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Full Page: \$175 monthly; \$1,800 annually
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Business Card (2 3/4 x 2 3/4): \$25 monthly, \$260 annually
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The following are changes to the WAHA Membership Directory for 2002-03. Please update your copy of the directory if you want to keep it current.

ADD (AND WELCOME) NEW WAHA MEMBERS

Craig Bartelt & Nick Mercado, 1751 Buckingham Road, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Howard & Janelle Bennett, 1703 Virginia, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Bob Brkich & Ben Pratt, 1650 Wellington, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Alex & Linda Frost, 1812 S. Bronson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006
(323) 735-9639, Alex@sunflowerproduction.com,
LindaFrost@earthlink.net

Anthony George & Laura Voisin George, 1282 Linda Vista Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103 (626) 793-8595

Anne & Dan Hakes, 2379 W. 21st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 730-1003
DANHAKES@ATTBI.com

Todd & Susan Jackson, 1505 6th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (323) 737-5523, wavemusic@earthlink.net

Michael Jarvis, 416 North Palm Drive, #B, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 (310) 858-2202

Jay Judson & Valerie Lyons, 6135 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048

Michael LaChance, 2036 W. 28th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 732-6130

Jeri & Peter McLaughlin, 1663 Wellington, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Wendy McPherson & Yolanda Alaniz, 1915 S. Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 733-6200

Marlyn Musicant & Douglas Heller, 2074 W. 29th Place, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 733-5830, mmusicant@getty.edu

Rita & Roger Patton, 1722 Buckingham Road Los Angeles, CA 90019

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CHANGE TO NEW OR CORRECT INFO

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WAHA February Calendar

Week 2:

Tuesday, February 11 - Preservation Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 13 - Author Penny Mickelbury at Washington Irving Library

Week 3:

Monday, February 17 - Zoning & Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 18 - Opera Talk at Washington Irving Library

Thursday, February 20 - 10th District Candidates Forum

Week 4:

Sunday, February 23 - WAHA General Meeting

Wednesday, February 26 - Membership Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 27 - Board Meeting

Upcoming:

Sunday, March 2 - WAHA Board of Directors Candidates Statements Due

***Drums from the Heart —
WAHA Celebrates Black History Month***
Sunday, February 23, 4 p.m.
1720 S. Victoria Avenue
(in Lafayette Square)

***And in March:
Preservation Forum***

***WAHA Hosts Representatives of
Other Southern California
Preservation Groups***
Saturday, March 22, 7 p.m.
2657 Van Buren Place
Potluck: Bring a favorite dish to share

The WAHA Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2003. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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